

Trillium Charter School is a public school that nurtures each child's inherent curiosity, creativity and connection to community. We support diverse learning styles and use democratic processes to help students grow fully as human beings and contribute to and enhance the world.

Newsletter

December 2009



Trillium Charter School
5420 N Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR 97217
Phone: 503-285-3833
Fax: 503-249-0348
info@trilliumcharterschool.org
www.trilliumcharterschool.org

Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

Dear Trillium Families

By Stephanie Hinkle, Director

I hope your family is settling in well to winter. Winter brings fun, but stress also. Many of our families and others in the community are struggling and it is a good time to reach out to others to offer support. Sometimes support is something tangible like blankets for the homeless, and sometimes it is more ethereal like kindness and someone to talk to. You don't need to have stuff in order to help others. It is a great gift for your children and yourself to get the great feelings from helping others.



We have been busy this fall and early winter. The students are hard at work. The staff is hard at work, and things are moving along, as my mother would say.

If you have listened to the news lately, you have no doubt heard about the increase in violence, especially family violence. These events are frightening to us all, and especially children. If your children are aware of these events, please talk with them about it. It is a good opportunity to talk about violence in general, and the harm that it causes. It is also good to remember that when parents fight around children, the children can then become afraid that bad things will happen. It is an opportunity to make family pledges about non-violence and to practice talking about our emotions. Do understand, however, that family violence is one of the leading causes of death for women under 50. It is a very real problem. Family violence increases around the holidays and you may know someone who needs some help with this issue.

On a happier note, all of our students are deeply involved in service this year. From community gardens to food drives for migrant workers, our students have been out in the community learning about ways they can contribute and learn from the stories of others. These opportunities are bringing a depth of understanding of others and the world that is difficult to gain from other experiences. Talk to your kids about these projects.

We had our first single parents group last month. It was a great experience for me. We will have our next group December 17th from 6-7pm. Childcare is available.

Have a great break, and, if you celebrate the Holidays, I hope they are everything that you wanted.



Trillium's newsletter is produced monthly by parent volunteers Jodie Throckmorton and Susan Millhauser. Submissions to the newsletter are due by the third Monday of the month and can be directed to Jodie. Please contact Jodie at jodie@trilliumcharterschool.org. Photos or other images along with your submissions are also welcome!

Together for Trillium (TFT) News

By Kerri Creager, President and James Frost, Co-President

Happy Holidays! TFT, Trillium's version of the traditional parent/teacher association, has been hard at work providing grants, organizing social and fundraising activities, and keeping families connected with the school.

Remember, anyone—student, parent, or staff—is invited to our meetings, held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Childcare is provided. If you only come to one meeting a year and volunteer for one event, you've helped the school tremendously. Don't be shy!

Trillium Hoodies Available for Christmas!

Thanks to the generous donation of Dean Boudouris, who volunteered his time and screenprinting shop, we have some REALLY WARM, high-quality, 100% cotton Trillium hoodies available for purchase. They're going for \$20, are gray with a black logo on the back, and come in adult S, M, and L. Look for them in the front entrance way during intensive week. All proceeds benefit the school.

Thanks to the Outgoing TFT Leadership Team

President – parent Kerri Creager

Communications Specialist – parent Catherine Murphy

Treasurer – parent dawn weaver

Volunteer Coordinator – parent Ajna Rae

Teacher Representative – teacher Polly Christopher

Board Representative – parent Melynda Retallack

Student Representative – student Alexandra Philips

Classroom Liaison Coordinator – parent Mary Drinkhouse

New TFT Leadership Roles

Thanks to all the people who have taken on—or are continuing(!) in—leadership roles this year:

Kerri Creager, parent – President

James Frost, parent – Co-President

Terry Graham, parent -- Co-President

Catherine Murphy, parent – Communications Specialist

dawn weaver, parent – Treasurer

Nina Thompson, teacher – Teacher Representative

Eva Pratt, parent – Board Representative

Skylar Williams, student – Student Representative

Mary Drinkhouse, parent – Classroom Liaison Coordinator

Volunteer Needed to Organize Staff Appreciation Event in April

TFT is seeking a Trillium parent to organize our annual staff appreciation event this spring. Someone with connections to a local restaurant or gathering place would be great. Or someone with catering experience or who just loves to organize events. Lots of volunteers will be available to help but we need someone to head this up!

Grants

This autumn, the TFT voted on, and awarded grants to Nina Thompson, for additional equipment for her extremely popular LegoRobotics class, and to the Intermediate Advisors for a document camera to facilitate the sharing of project work, etc. Winter grants, and our first round of grants for senior projects, will be considered at our next meeting, Monday, December 14th, 6:30 pm.

Trillium Preschool Open House Evenings

If you are interested in learning more about our preschool program, please join us for an information session. We will share about our program, answer questions and give families a chance to view the space. These evening events are meant for adults as there is a seated presentation with a slideshow and question and answer time. Each event will have the same content, so choose one of the upcoming nights:

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 from 6:30-7:30 or Thursday, February 18, 2010 from 6:30-7:30.

Please RSVP (trilliumpreschool@gmail.com) so we can inform you of any cancellations due to inclement weather. To find out more, visit the Preschool website (<http://sites.google.com/site/trilliumpreschool/>).

SCRAP Outing! by Mary Drinkhouse

Once during the fall, and once in the spring, Liaisons work with advisors to organize a class gathering. This Veterans' Holiday, all four of our 3-4-5 classes enjoyed time together at SCRAP (School and Community Reuse Action Project.)

Liaisons from Jenny's, Rob's, Lyndsey's and Jeremy's class worked with the teachers to organize a fun, family outing in the community rooms at SCRAP creating "functional art". Over 40 parents and students joined Jenny and Lyndsey to create corkboards, holiday decorations, candle holders, robots, purses, dolls, flower arrangements, decorated boxes, and much more! Jenny and Lyndsey brought along their kids too.

One of SCRAP's coordinators, Bethany, generously gave us the two workshop rooms at a reduced rate and parents gave monetary donations to help cover the cost of the rooms. We also enjoyed seeing the 3-4-5 community art sculpture created by 2008/2009 students in coordination with Portland State University Capstone projects, which now hangs in the workshop space. Everyone had fun and left with amazing "functional art!" Thank you to all for your generous donations and for such a fun event!



SCRAP-tacular fun was had by all!

It's not too late...to donate!

YES! I want to contribute to Trillium and help close the equipment and supplies budget gap.

Amount: ___ \$5 ___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100
___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000
Other Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please include this form with your contribution,
and drop at the front desk or mail to:

Trillium Charter School
5420 N. Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

Questions? Contact James Hindes, jhindes@trilliumcharterschool.org



Let's Be Safe!

Please be extra cautious when dropping off and picking up children, and when parking to come into the school. Much risky driving/parking behavior of parents has been observed. Remember that even if you are in a hurry, the potential costs of unsafe driving behavior can be extremely high. Around the holidays, people get more stressed and kids are less focused. **Please slow down and pay attention while driving, biking, or walking in the vicinity of school. Don't Forget...for everyone's safety, please:**

- No parking in the front lot
- No double parking on Maryland Ave.
- Watch for pedestrians
- Do not use the IFCC driveway or parking lot
- Remind your kids to look both ways before crossing! Big kids, too!

Important Dates

*(Details on the Trillium web calendar.
All events at Trillium unless otherwise noted.)*

December 14-17

Intensives

Monday, December 14

Board Meeting (All are welcome)

6:00pm – 8:30pm, Ken's room

Monday, December 14

TFT Meeting

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Childcare provided. Please sign up
ahead-of-time at the front desk

Thursday, December 17

Single parents group

6pm – 7pm

December 21, 2009 – January 1, 2010

SCHOOL CLOSED

Winter Break

Wednesday, January 6

Safe routes to school

6:30pm-7:30pm

Monday, January 11

TFT Meeting

6:30pm-8:30pm

Childcare provided. Please sign up
ahead-of-time at the front desk

Monday, January 18

SCHOOL CLOSED

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 18

Board Meeting (All are welcome)

6:00pm – 8:30pm, Ken's room